

## Message Text

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20

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 ORM-03 SR-02 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /164 W

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P R 240900Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4131

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

/USINT BAGHDAD 004

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT CAIRO

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14646

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UR US XF IS

SUBJ: SOVIET-FEDAYEEN AND SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIPS

REF: A. TEL AVIV 9471 (NOTAL) B. MOSCOW 14622, C. MOSCOW  
14625 (NOTAL).

1. VICTOR LOUIS'S DOWNPLAYING IN ISRAELI PRESS OF SOVIET  
SUPPORT FOR ARAFAT AND THE PALESTINIAN DELEGATION IN MOSCOW  
(TEL AVIV REFTEL) IS CONSISTENT WITH THE LINE BEING  
PEDDLED HERE (MOSCOW REFTELS) AND STRENGTHENS OUR BELIEF  
THAT SOVIETS WHILE ANXIOUS TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR TIES AND  
INFLUENCE WITH PALESTINIANS, ARE RELUCTANT TO MAKE A PUBLIC  
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MOVE BEFORE ARAB COUNTRIES WORK OUT THEIR POSITION AT ALGIERS

SUMMIT.

2. LOUIS'S TRIAL BALLOON ON RESUMPTION OF SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS SEEMS DESIGNED PRIMARILY AS NOT-SO-SUBTLE REMINDER TO ARAB GOVERNMENTS (AND POSSIBLY TO US AS WELL) THAT USSR HAS OPTIONS, TOO, IF US DIPLOMATIC COUP IN EGYPT WORKS AGAINST SOVIET INTERESTS. MOSCOW FOREIGN AFFAIRS PUBLIC LECTURER NOVEMBER 23 FLOATED SAME BALLON. ASKED WHAT EBAN WAS DOING IN ROMANIA, HE SAID THERE WERE RUMORS THAT ROMANIA WOULD MEDIATE RESUMPTION OF SOVIET-ISRAELI RELATIONS. LECTURER SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO THINK OF RESUMPTION UNTIL ISRAEL FULFILLED ITS "OBLIGATIONS TO INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY", BUT HE DID NOT COMPLETELY CLOSE DOOR ON IDEA. IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS, INFORMED SOVIETS HERE HAVE FOLLOWED LINE THAT RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL CANNOT PRECEDE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

3. WHILE AT THIS POINT MOSCOW -GENERATED TALK OF RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL SEEMS INTENDED MAINLY FOR EFFECT, IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF THE SOVIETS WERE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING RESUMPTION AS ONE OF WAYS OF COMING OUT OF DIPLOMATIC COLD. PRECONDITION FOR RESUMPTION, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD BE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH (1) MOSCOW COULD DEPICT AS SIGN OF ISRAELI MODERATION AND THUS SQUARE WITH CURRENT SOVIET HOSTILITY TOWARD ISRAEL AND (2) WOULD BE POSITIVE ENOUGH FROM ARAB VIEWPOINT TO ENABLE SOVIETS TO RECONCILE RESUMPTION WITH CONTINUED GOOD SOVIET RELATIONS WITH ARABS.  
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